

## **The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Food Package Review**

### **Goals and Structure of the Review Process**

#### **BACKGROUND**

In 1997, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) convened a work group to conduct a comprehensive review of the FDPIR food package. Based on the recommendations of that work group, FNS implemented many improvements. In 2000, at the annual meeting of the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR), a resolution was passed requesting reactivation of the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group for the purpose of reviewing the food package on an ongoing basis for quality, customer appeal, nutritional integrity, and recommending appropriate food package improvements.

#### **PURPOSE**

In 2002, at the request of NADPIR, the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group was formed. The Work Group brings together stakeholders that provide the necessary perspective and expertise on Native American health and nutrition issues, participant food preferences, and the Federal procurement and delivery process for USDA Foods. These experts include Federal and Tribal health professionals, NAFDPIR officials, and other representatives from the Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and State agencies that administer FDPIR. NAFDPIR was instrumental in nominating the tribal health professionals and FDPIR representatives on the Work Group.

The Work Group meets on an ongoing basis (about every two months currently) to periodically review the FDPIR food package. Its goal is to consider revisions to the food package to better meet the nutritional needs and food preferences of program participants without significantly increasing overall food costs. In addition, changes to the food package must be consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and practical to obtain regularly on a nationwide basis. The types of changes considered by the Work Group include:

- Adding new products,
- Increasing the choices in a particular food category,
- Improving product packaging,
- Changing the pack size of products,
- Eliminating a product,
- Revising the guide rate for a product, and
- Improving the quality and nutrient profile of USDA Foods provided by FDPIR.

During each two year review period, the Work Group prioritizes a list of proposed changes to the food package, rather than review the entire food package. However, every prospective change is considered in terms of its impact on the nutrient profile of the entire food package.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group consists of 15 members. Some of the membership will change every two years. The change in membership coincides with the election of the NAFDPIR Board. This rotation of members allows a continual flow of new ideas and perspective into the Work Group.

Membership positions not designated for biennial rotation will change on an as needed basis.  
Membership is as follows:

Five FDPIR Program Directors (selected by NAFDPIR)

- NAFDPIR President\*
- 4 FDPIR Program Directors\*

Four Nutrition and Health Experts

- 2 Representatives from the Indian Health Service\* (IHS) - one representative works with IHS' Diabetes Prevention and Treatment Grant Programs
- 1 Representative from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention\* (CDC)
- 1 FNS Nutritionist

Three Food Ordering Specialists

- 1 Representative from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- 1 Representative from USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
- 1 FNS headquarters food ordering team leader

Three FNS FDPIR Program Administrators

- 1 FNS Food Distribution Division Branch Chief
- 2 FNS Regional Office/Field Office staff\*

*\* Staff subject to change every two years*

#### **CURRENT WORK GROUP MEMBERS:**

FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group members for the current two year cycle (Fiscal Years 2009-2011) are:

#### **NAFDPIR President:**

Ms. Roxanna Newsom, Manager                      FDPIR Director, Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma

#### **FDPIR Directors\*:**

#### **Midwest Representative(s) (also represent the Northeast):**

Betty Jo Graveen, Director                      Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Susie Roy, Director                      Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

#### **Mountain Plains Representatives:**

Mary Greene-Trottier, Director                      Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe

Southwest Representative (also represents the Southeast):

Florence Calabaza, Director	Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc.
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Western Representative(s):

Benita Lewis, Director	Small Tribes of Western Washington
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Lorraine Davis, Warehouse Manager	Navajo Nation
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**Health Organizations:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

Susan M. Anderson, MS, RD	Public Health Nutritionist, Chronic Disease Nutrition Branch
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Indian Health Service

Kibbe Conti, MS, RD, CDE	Supervisory Dietitian, Oglala Sioux Tribe
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**USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service:**

Dennis Pearson, Chief	Commodity Procurement Division
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**USDA, Farm Service Agency:**

Sharon Hadder, Marketing Specialist	Domestic Programs Branch
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**USDA, Food and Nutrition Service:**

Laura Walter, MPH, RD, Chief	Program Support Branch
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Stephanie Cooks, MA, RD	Nutritionist, Program Support Branch
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Patti Schock	Program Analyst, Operations Branch
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Sarah Kellogg-Eby	Field Operations, Western Regional Office
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Catherine Young	Program Analyst, Mountain Plains Regional Office
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*\*The Mid-Atlantic is not represented because it contains no tribes participating in FDPIR*

**REVIEW PROCEDURES**

The actions listed below summarize the basic process of the review. Most of the review work is accomplished via conference calls. These calls are arranged as needed. A face-to-face meeting may be arranged in conjunction with the annual NAFDPIR conference held each year in either April or June. The basic review process is as follows:

- ❖ FNS provides the Work Group with background information on FDPIR and the review process.

- ❖ The Work Group begins discussions on proposed changes. The proposals for change may be obtained from several sources, including:
  - Responses to a recent Commodity Acceptability Progress Report,
  - Written or verbal suggestions/complaints submitted to FNS by participants,
  - Input from individual FDPIR Program Directors,
  - Resolutions passed by NAFDPIR,
  - Input from FNS headquarters, regional and field office staff,
  - Input from Department of Defense staff (procurement agents for the FDPIR Fresh Produce Program), and
  - Input from other interested parties (e.g., others from within IHS, CDC, etc.).
- ❖ FNS, AMS, FSA begin gathering preliminary information to determine the feasibility of proposed changes in terms of cost, package sizes, and availability. The nutritionists from FNS, IHS, and CDC provide input on proposed changes from a nutritional standpoint.
- ❖ The Work Group finalizes discussions on the proposed changes and submits its recommendations.
- ❖ FNS staff conducts cost and nutritional analyses to determine the impact of the recommended changes on the cost and nutritional profile of the food package as a whole.
- ❖ Based on its review of the cost and nutrition analyses, the work group produces a final list of changes to be recommended for adoption by USDA. FNS support staff prepare the memorandum transmitting the recommendations to USDA officials.